

Correspondents' Column.

fire, for it appeared almost as if the chill of death was creeping upon us.

Now all start to procure wood, and, being provided with two axes, we soon had at our tent a cord of fuel. Having succeeded in securing a quantity of dry twigs and leaves, which were sheltered in a large hollow tree, on these we laid a great heap of wood. Now for its ignition; now for a match. "Who's got a match?" were words spoken almost simultaneously by us all. Each instinctively felt in his pocket for the article. How needless and absurd the movement, for all of us were as wet as if we had fallen in the sea. "O, Bailey!" said I, "you have all the matches; you bought a gross of boxes for our party before leaving Leavenworth, you know." "Thunder! so I did," he responded; "they are in my canvas carpet-bag in the tent," and away he hurried to bring the matches. On returning to us, what a picture of despair his countenance presented. He held up the bag; it was frozen solid; it had been completely soaked with the rain, having slipped out directly under the eaves of the tent during the storm. We took out the bundles of matches, and box after box was examined. Hundreds of matches were struck, but none ignited on the driest places we could strike them. We must surely expire here, for colder it seemed constantly to grow. Fortunately the snow had stopped falling, and not more than three inches were on the ground, and now the entire blue sky looked down upon us. We had plenty of provisions on hand to last several days; our mules could browse in the shrubbery in the bottom land, and black clumps in the distant prairie indicated buffalo, on which we might subsist in the future. But fire we must have ere sundown or perish, and we were exceedingly hungry. All were slapping their arms around their bodies or dancing in the endeavor to keep warm, when suddenly Bailey yelled out, "Glory! glory! glory! I have just thought of it! My tin match-box is in my old coat in the tent. That box would keep the matches dry, if indeed there are any in it." Into the tent he hurried, and in an instant returned, holding up his tin match-box. You may realize it was a dread moment to us all when he raised the lid of that box. Slowly this was done, and the revelation was a single match. The lives of five men hung upon the quality of that match and the success which attended striking it. Osborn, our coolest—mentally, I mean; we were physically on a par—and bravest comrade, exclaimed, "Bailey, rub that tin box with your open hand till all moisture appears gone, and then get close down to the leaves and strike it boldly on the box. Remember what Napoleon told the accoucher as to his treatment of the Empress: 'Manage the case as if she was a burgomaster's wife.' Strike that match as if you had thousands of others if it failed." The match was struck as advised, and a blessed flame burst from it, which, when applied to the leaves and twigs, soon initiated a glorious fire.

I think our feelings were too deep for any demonstrations, but as we dried our clothing and prepared our evening meal, more than one doubtless thought of the words in the old-time hymn:

"On what a narrow thread doth hang
The fate of everlasting things."

Circular Letter.

PENSION OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., January 20, 1879.

SIR: For your information, I have the honor to state—
First. That as soon as practicable, after the arrears bill lately passed by Congress shall have been approved by the President, I will issue and publish instructions for the guidance of all persons who are entitled to arrears under its provisions.

Second. No claim for arrears under the provisions of the bill, due to a pensioner already upon the rolls, will be adjusted until Congress shall have appropriated the money for the payment of such claim.

Third. Meantime, inquiries made by interested parties, in individual cases, will be filed, but no answer made until they are taken up for adjustment.

The above rules will be observed in handling the claims for arrears under the bill in question, in order to prevent the work in the Office from becoming blockaded by unnecessary correspondence.

Very respectfully,

J. A. BENTLEY,
Commissioner of Pensions.

The following is the form prescribed by the Commissioner of Pensions for the collection of arrears of pensions:

"To the Commissioner of Pensions:

I, _____, a pensioner under pension certificate No. _____, hereby apply for the arrears due me, under the act granting arrears of pension, approved January 25, 1879. My postoffice address is _____, [here insert the name of the postoffice, and if the claimant resides in a city, the name and number of the street and residence must also be given.]

Two witnesses.

Name of claimant.

STATE OF _____, COUNTY OF _____, ss:

Signed in my presence, by _____, who is known to be the person he describes himself to be, and at the same time he exhibited to me his pension certificate, which is numbered _____.

Magistrate's signature."

Very respectfully,

J. A. BENTLEY,
Commissioner of Pensions.

The above blank, in proper form, and with full instructions, will be sent, free of charge, to each regular subscriber to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE upon sending a three-cent stamp to pay postage.

The following is from the *National Republican*, of Washington:

Commissioner Bentley's proposition to establish a number of peripatetic Pension Courts, so called, is deservedly denounced by the Grand Army and other interested and kindred soldiers' associations. A resolution adopted by the Pennsylvania State Encampment of the G. A. R., which is printed in our news columns this morning, sets forth sufficient reasons, in our opinion, for the defeat of the proposition by the Senate, where it is now pending.

MRS. S. W. ADAMSVILLE.—You can join with your husband in taking the two papers named.

MRS. E. J. B. PYLESVILLE, MD.—See answer to your inquiry in reply to another correspondent in this column.

4. Ex-soldiers and others can petition Congress in favor of equalizing bounties. No particular form of petition required.

MRS. A. L. D.—The price of the paper for which you have subscribed, in conjunction with THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, will not change.

MRS. E. L. B. BERLIN, WIS.—Only the children of a soldier who were under sixteen years of age at the date of his death, are entitled to a pension.

S. W. LYONS FARMER, N. J.—Pensioners of the war of 1812 can derive no benefits from the act of January 25, 1879, granting arrears of pensions.

JAMES L. NASSAU, DEL.—Disability contracted in the one hundred days' service entitles to pension, same as though enlistment had been for a longer period.

T. H. P. ANNA, ILL.—Since the father was not dependent on the deceased soldier for support at the date of the latter's death, he has no valid claim to arrears of pension under the recent law, nor any valid claim under the general pension laws.

JAS. M. C. MARCO, IND.—Having enlisted in 1861, subsequent to July 22, and not having served two full years, you are not entitled to bounty from the United States, unless discharged by reason of wounds or injury, as contradistinguished from disease.

SAMUEL P. S. NORTH 27TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.—By accepting a commission you forfeited title to the additional bounty.—Act July 28, 1861. Having served two years as an enlisted man you were entitled to the \$100 original bounty paid you, and no more.

DAVID MCC., LITCHFIELD, KY.—The minor child of the soldier who, while confined in prison on charge of desertion, contracted, and died of, small pox, is not entitled to a pension, as the soldier was not in the "line of his duty" when he met his death, as contemplated by the pension laws.

MRS. E. P. IMLAY CITY, MICH.—If you have drawn a pension from the date of your husband's death in the Army up to the date of your re-marriage, and your children drew the pension until they severally attained the age of 16 years, there is no pension due you under the law granting arrears of pension.

D. L. D. TERRE HAUTE, IND.—Q. A soldier was discharged June 1863, and died June, 1868. His widow has drawn a pension from date of his death. Is she entitled to arrears from date of his discharge? A. Not if the soldier himself drew from date of discharge to death. If he did not, widow is advised to apply.

MRS. A. J. S. MR. JOY, PA.—The point covered by your inquiry remains to be decided by the proper authority. The March number of THE TRIBUNE will probably afford the desired information. As the cost of making application is so trifling, you are advised to file your claim for arrears of pension not drawn by your husband.

MISS N. B. C. UTOPIA, Q.—Can the children of a deceased soldier, who have drawn the increase of pension of \$2 a month from July 25, 1868, allowed by act of Congress of that date, receive back pension from the date of father's death in 1862? This question is not yet decided by the proper officer of the Government. Decision, when rendered, will appear in THE TRIBUNE.

THOS. R. ST. LAWRENCE P. O., WIS.—Soldiers on furlough were entitled to 25 cents a day for period properly absent, and during which they were not subsisted by the United States Government. If the furlough has been lost or destroyed they cannot recover this allowance, as the furlough itself is the only evidence of non-payment which the Government will accept.

JAS. W. P. MIDDLETOWN, OHIO.—Q. If but one of several children of a deceased soldier is now under 21 years of age, are any of the other children who are now over 21 who were under 16 years at date of soldier's death, allowed to apply for and receive pension up to the time they severally attained the age of 16 years? A. Yes, the one child being under 21 brings the others in.

GEO. H. N. MONSON, MASS.—Would advise the widow, who was in receipt of a pension until she remarried, to apply for arrears of pension. If husband died in the service, she certainly is entitled; and if he died subsequent to discharge and had not himself been the recipient of a pension, she may be entitled from the date of his discharge. (See answer to another correspondent in this column.)

J. C. W. SAINT MARGARET'S P. O., MD.—Foster parents are not entitled to the pay or bounty of a deceased soldier, unless the adoption was of such a character that, by the laws of the State in which the parties resided, the deceased soldier would have been an heir-at-law to his foster-parent, had he (the soldier) survived him (or her). Foster parents are not entitled to pension in any event.

MRS. E. M. V. OTTOKEE, OHIO.—Your claim for pension on account of the death of your husband, after his discharge, by a railroad accident, was properly rejected, as his death was not due to his military service, as required by the pension laws. If he had not drawn a pension from date of discharge, you are advised to file an application for pension from that date to the date at which his pension commenced.

W. D. L. LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.—It has not yet been decided whether a pension granted by a special act of Congress will date back to the discharge or death of a soldier, under the operations of the Arrears of Pension law. Such claims might be successfully prosecuted before the Court of Claims in this city, if not recognized by the Pension Office, provided they were granted "subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws."

H. K. F. MANCHESTER, VT.—Under section 4693 of the Revised Statutes, a contract surgeon or acting assistant surgeon, disabled in line of duty, while actually performing duty as such, with any military force in the field, or in transit, or in hospital, is entitled to a pension. The heirs of such, provided for in the general pension laws, are also entitled. That the hospital in which the contract surgeon incurred his disability was located in Vermont, does not affect title.

J. W. CIX, OHIO.—A soldier who, after serving nine months, received an honorable discharge and then re-enlisted for three years in another organization (enlistments into the Veteran Reserve Corps excepted) as a volunteer, between January 1, 1863, and April 1, 1864, is, if not mustered as a veteran volunteer, entitled to an "office-muster" as such. Such muster will entitle the soldier to the difference between veteran and recruit bounty, \$102 or \$202, according to date of enlistment.

J. E. G. MARBEL, ARKANSAS.—If your brother, who filed a claim for invalid pension, left a widow or children under 16 years of age, they, in the order named, may complete his claim and draw the same amount of pension to which he would have been entitled up to date of his death. If he died of disability contracted in the service, the heirs named in the general pension laws are entitled to draw—the widow during widowhood, minor children until they severally attain the age of 16 years; mother, father, or minor brothers and sisters who were dependent on him for support, at the date of his death, during dependency.

MRS. J. J. N. ELKHART, IND.—Q. My husband was an invalid pensioner of the Mexican war, and dropped from the pension roll on the presumption of disloyalty, under act of 1862, he being a resident of a rebellious State. He died in 1870 of an acute disease not due to his military service. Am I entitled to any pension? A. Under the Revised Statutes you can have your husband's name restored to the pension roll and draw the amount of pension he was in receipt of from the date of his last payment up to the date of his death, provided you prove his and your own loyalty, and the continuance of his disability up to death.

J. M. W. MORLEY, MICH.—I. You are advised to write to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, in this city.

2. The Equalization Bounty bill before Congress provides \$24 bounty for each and every month served, deducting all United States bounty heretofore paid.

3. The Pension Office does not reject a claim simply because there is no record of the soldier's treatment in a hospital. The testimony of the regimental or other surgeon who treated the soldier while in service will suffice in the absence of hospital record, or a claim may be favorably considered where the disability is proven, by a commissioned officer, and it is shown by medical testimony that the disability existed at the time of discharge and has continued ever since.

We have found it impossible to reply to all of the inquiries made of us, through the medium of this column. Numerous inquiries have been answered through the mail. Many correspondents, whose initials do not appear in this column, will find the information they seek in replies to other correspondents.

Many inquiries in cases arising under the new Arrears of Pension law, cannot be answered in this issue, as decisions upon the points involved have not yet been rendered. Official decisions under said law will be published from time to time.

List of the Battles of the War of the Rebellion

We continue in this number the publication of an alphabetical list of the Battles of the War of the Rebellion from authentic sources, to be continued hereafter. It will be pleasant, we hope, for the old soldiers to see again the names and dates of battles in which they or their friends took part.

PLACE.	STATE.	DATE.
Fort Craig.....	N. Mex.	Feb. 20 and May 23, 1862.
Fort Darling.....	Va.	May 12 to 16, 1864.
Fort Davidson, also known as Ironton.....	Mo.	Sept. 26 and 27, 1864.
Fort De Russy.....	La.	March 14, 1864.
Fort Donelson.....	Tenn.	Feb. 13, 16, and Aug. 25, 1862.
Do.....	Tenn.	Feb. 3, 1863.
Do.....	Tenn.	Oct. 11, 1864.
Fort Esperanza.....	Texas.	Nov. 30, 1862.
Do.....	Texas.	Nov. 27 to 29, 1863.
Fort Filmore.....	N. Mex.	July 27, 1861.
Do.....	N. Mex.	Aug. 7, 18 2.
Fort Fisher.....	N. C.	Dec. 25, 1864.
Do.....	N. C.	Jan. 13 to 15, 1865.
Fort Gaines.....	Ala.	Aug. 2 to 23, 1864.
Fort Gibson.....	I. T.	Oct. 15, 1862.
Do.....	I. T.	Feb. 23, May 20 and 25, and Dec. 29, 1863.
Do.....	I. T.	Sept. 16 and 18, 1864.
Do.....	I. T.	Sept., 1865.
Fort Grant.....	A. T.	Jan. 21, 1866.
Fort Halleck.....	D. T.	Feb. 20, 1863.
Do.....	D. T.	July 4, 1865.
Fort Hatteras.....	N. C.	Aug. 28 and 29, 1861.
Fort Hell.....	Va.	Sept. 23 and Nov. 5, 1864.
Fort Henry.....	Tenn.	Feb. 6, 1862.
Fort Hill.....	Miss.	June 25 and 28, 1863.
Fort Hindman.....	Ark.	Jan. 11, 1863.
Fort Johnson.....	S. C.	June 16, 1862.
Do.....	S. C.	July 2, 1864.
Fort Jones.....	Ky.	Feb. 18, 1865.
Fort Kelley.....	W. Va.	Nov. 28, 1864.
Fort Larned.....	Kans.	May 22, 1865.
Fort Leavenworth.....	Kans.	Oct. 20 to 26, 1864.
Fort Lyons, also known as Sand Creek.....	I. T.	Dec. 9, 1864.
Fort Lyons.....	Va.	June 9, 1863.
Fort Macon.....	N. C.	April 23, 1862.
Fort McAllister.....	Ga.	Dec. 13, 1864.
Fort McCook.....	Ala.	Aug. 27, 1862.
Fort Morgan.....	Ala.	Aug. 5 to 23, 1864.
Fort Myers.....	Fla.	Feb. 20, 1865.
Fort Pemberton.....	Miss.	Mar. 13 to April 5, 1863.
Fort Pillow.....	Tenn.	Mar. 16 and April 12, 1864.
Fort Pocahontas.....	Va.	Aug.—1864.
Fort Pulaski.....	Ga.	April 10, 1862.
Fort Rice.....	D. T.	Sept. 27, 1864.
Do.....	D. T.	July 28 and 30, 1865.
Fort Ridgely.....	Minn.	Aug. 20 and 24, 1862.
Fort Sanders.....	Tenn.	Nov. 29, 1863.
Fort Scott.....	Kans.	Sept. 1, and 3, 1861.
Fort Scott.....	Kans.	Oct. 23 and 28, 1864.
Fort Scott.....	Mo.	Sept. 2, 1861.
Fort Sedgwick, also known as Fort Hell.....	Va.	Sept. 23 and Nov. 5, 1864.
Fort Smith.....	Ark.	May 15, Aug. 31, and Sept. 1, 1863.
Do.....	Ark.	July 29 and 31, Aug. 24, and 27, Sept. 1 and 11, and Dec. 24, 1864.
Fort Steadman.....	Va.	March 25, 1865.
Fort Stevens.....	D. C.	July 12, 1864.
Fort Sumner.....	N. Mex.	Jan. 4, 1864.
Fort Sumter.....	S. C.	April 12 and 13, 1861.
Fort Taylor.....	Fla.	Aug. 21, 1864.
Fort Wagner.....	S. C.	April 16, 1865.
Fort Wagner.....	S. C.	July 10 to Sept. 6, 1863.
Forty Hill's, also known as Hankinson's Ferry.....	Miss.	May 3, 1863.
Foster's Bridge.....	N. C.	Dec. 10, 1864.
Foster's Expedition to Goldsboro.....	N. C.	Dec. 12 to 18, 1862.
Four La Pals Mountain.....	Ark.	Nov. 11, 1863.
Fourteen-Mile Creek.....	I. T.	Oct. 30, 1863.
Fourteen-Mile Creek.....	Miss.	May 12, 1863.
Fox Creek.....	Mo.	March 7, 1862.
Frankfort.....	Ky.	June 10, 1864.
Frankfort.....	Va.	Nov. 23, 1862.
Franklin.....	La.	May 25, 1863.
Franklin.....	Miss.	Jan. 2, 1865.
Franklin.....	Mo.	Oct. 13, 1862.
Do.....	Mo.	Oct. 1, 1864.
Franklin.....	Tenn.	Dec. 12, 1862.
Do.....	Tenn.	Feb. 1, March 9 and 25, April 10 and 27, June 4, 1863.
Do.....	Tenn.	Sept. 2 and Nov. 30 and Dec. 17, 1864.
Franklin.....	Va.	Oct. 31 and Dec. 2, 1862.
Franklin Creek.....	Miss.	Dec. 18, 1864.
Franklin's Crossing.....	Va.	June 5, 1863.
Frazier's Farm.....	Va.	June 30, 1862.
Frederick.....	Md.	Sept. 12, 1862.
Fredericksburgh.....	Mo.	July 17, 1864.
Fredericksburgh.....	Va.	Nov. 9 and Dec. 11 to 16, 1862.
Fredericksburgh Road.....	Va.	May 16 to 20, 1864.
Fredericktown.....	Mo.	Oct. 17 to 21, 1861.
Freeman's Ford.....	Va.	Aug. 24, 1862.
Fremon's Orchard.....	Col.	April 12, 1864.
French Broad.....	Tenn.	Jan. 27, 1864.
French Point.....	Mo.	May 16, 1863.
Frog Bayou.....	Ark.	July 1, 1864.
Front Royal.....	Va.	May 23 and 30, 1862.
Front Royal Pike.....	Va.	Sept. 21, 1864.
Frying Pan.....	Va.	June 4, 1863.
Fulton.....	Ga.	Oct. 13, 1864.
Fulton.....	Mo.	July 17, 1861.
Funktown.....	Md.	July 12 and 13, 1863.
G.		
Gainesville.....	Fla.	Feb. 14 and Aug. 27, 1864.
Gainesville.....	Va.	Aug. 28, 1862.
Gaine's Mill.....	Va.	June 27, 1862.
Do.....	Va.	June 2, 1864.
Gallatin.....	Tenn.	Aug. 12 and Oct. 1, 1862.
Galveston.....	Texas.	Jan. 1, 1863.
Garrettsburgh.....	Ky.	Nov. 6, 1862.
Gaucha Mountain.....	Cal.	July 22, 1865.
Gauley's Bridge.....	W. Va.	Nov. 10, 1861.
Geiger Lake.....	Ky.	Sept. 3, 1862.
Georgia Landing.....	La.	Oct. 27, 1862.
Germantown.....	Tenn.	June 25, 1862.
Do.....	Tenn.	Jan. 27, and April 1, 1863.
Gettysburgh.....	Pa.	July 1, 2, and 3, 1863.
Ghent.....	Ky.	Aug. 29, 1864.
Gila River.....	N. Mex.	Nov. 5, 1863.
Gladesville.....	Va.	Dec. 15, 1864.
Gladesville.....	Va.	Oct. 2, 1864.
Glasgow.....	Ky.	Oct. 5, and Dec. 24, 1862.
Do.....	Ky.	Oct. 5, 1863.
Do.....	Ky.	Oct. 15, 1864.
Do.....	Ky.	March 28, 1865.
Glasgow.....	Mo.	Oct. 16, 1864.
Glass Bridge.....	Tenn.	Sept. 2, 1864.
Glendale.....	Ala.	Feb. 23, 1863.
Glendale.....	Miss.	May 8, 1862.
Do.....	Miss.	April 14, 1863.
Glendale.....	Va.	June 9, 1862.
Glorietta.....	N. Mex.	March 26 to 28, 1862.
Gloucester.....	Va.	Nov. 17, 1862.
Gloucester Point.....	Va.	Feb. 10, 1863.
Golding's Farm.....	Va.	June 27, 1862.
Goldsborough.....	N. C.	Dec. 17, 1862.
Do.....	N. C.	March 21 to 24, 1866.
Golgotha.....	Ga.	June 16, 1864.
Goodrich's Landing.....	La.	June 30, 1863.